

Volume 2, Issue 9
August 2020

ARMY COMMUNICATOR

Telling the Storytellers' story

Plus:

- ***COVID-19 Response***
- ***Network Resiliency***
- ***Signal History***



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Submit articles, photos, graphics, videos, story ideas, and nominations for “Signal Spotlight” to the editor [here](#). For additional information, please call (706) 791-7384.

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On the Cover

Spc. Steven Hitchcock assigned to 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), takes photographs during a mission on Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Jan. 22, 2014. Hitchcock's mission was to document Task Force Training conducted by Rangers from 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Photo by Pfc Rashene Mincy



Signal Regimental Team

Welcome to the August edition of the Army Communicator. You may notice pretty quickly that this issue looks a little different than previous ones. As Signal Soldiers, we are well aware that enabling communication requires creativity, adaptability, and change. Similarly, the evolution and modernization of our technologies and methodologies are necessary to better meet the needs of the force. In that spirit, we thought it was time to make some stylistic changes in order to provide a more engaging experience for you. Let us know what you think!

A major component of “getting the message through” is documenting the missions, activities, and daily life of not just the Signal Regiment, but of the entire force. What began at the dawn of the 20th Century as a small group of Signal Corps photographers has grown into the highly skilled and renowned team known as Combat Camera. In this issue, we’ll focus on these Soldiers who tell our story through their lens.

This issue also features the return of our very popular “Signal History” series

by our Signal Regimental Historian, Steven Rauch, as well as a look at how Signal Soldiers are leveraging training and technology in order to modernize communication during the COVID-19 crisis.

Remember, you can get the latest on what’s happening in the Signal Regiment and at the Signal Schoolhouse by following us on social media. We can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UsArmySignalRegiment/ and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/signal_school.

Finally, to all of our readers, thank you for your support and for all that you do. It’s been nearly two years since the Army Communicator relaunched as a digital publication and the reaction from the force has been incredible. Your encouragement, excitement, and ideas are what motivate us to provide you with great content each and every month. So please, keep submitting your suggestions for topics, articles, and themes, either through social media or directly to the editor. Until next time,

Pro Patria Vigilans!



COL John T. Batson
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Reserve Soldiers modernize logistics in COVID-19 fight

Army G-4

Twenty-five members of the Army Reserve 410th Brigade Signal Corps are modernizing a Logistics Operations Center at Fort Belvoir, Va., that's helping monitor COVID-19 activities and can serve as a continuity of operations site.

The Army's official Logistics Operations Center, run by the Army G-4, is in the Pentagon; but when COVID-19 appeared, the G-4 sought an alternative site to back-up the Pentagon location. The G-4 chose a building that is used by the G-4's Logistics Enterprise Support Agency at Fort Belvoir, but it needed an up-date so logisticians in both locations can be on the same secure networks.

"Having the 410th modernize our communications is a great solution," says Col. Joe Ricker, G-4's Deputy Director for Enterprise Systems. "It gives our Reserve Soldiers an opportunity to improve their skill sets, with results we will use every day. It also keeps our moderni-



(Above and left) Soldiers running new Category 6 network cables.
Courtesy photos

zation costs low.”

The G-4 is saving about \$100,000 in construction costs. There are also longer-term savings that include the ability to move to digital voice providers at lower rates.

Cpt. John Fellows, the 410th Commander, said that usually when the unit does an annual training exercise it is to support a 2,000 or 3,000 Soldier-brigade in the field. They set up communications for them to ensure they have internet and voice capabilities in the field.

“This is very different,” he said, “and very rewarding.

We will be able to point to the building and say we modernized it to help in the fight against COVID-19.”

Soldiers are spending two weeks doing the work, which will include installing 2.2 miles of Category 6 cable in the facility. The 410th is comprised of Soldiers whose civilian jobs range from information technology to food managers.

COVID-19 has impacted the unit’s monthly training, as Soldiers could not conduct hands-on maintenance and up-date equipment. This training assignment brings the unit together.



*Soldiers receive a briefing on the modernization project for the Fort Belvoir Logistics Center.
Courtesy photo*

Brigade holds virtual Ball

The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade (ADA BDE) hosted a Saint Barbara and Molly Pitcher award ceremony at Sagami General Depot June 26.

The ceremony was part of their first-ever virtual ball which aired July 3 on Facebook. The coronavirus pandemic did not stop this unit from commemorating those Soldiers and civilians who contributed significantly to the Air Defense community. The ball can be viewed [here](#).



Col. Patrick M. Costello, 38th ADA Brigade Commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Neil H. Sartain, 38th ADA Command Sergeant Major and Soldiers of the 38th ADA BDE S6 section gather during the Saint Barbara and Molly Pitcher Award Ceremony at Sagami General Depot June 26.
Photo by Momoko Shindo

facebook.com



38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

July 3 at 7:00 AM · 🌐

Please join the [#PacificGuardian](#) Brigade as they present the first-of-its-kind virtual ball commemorating traditions and customs of a Saint Barbara's Day Ball while adhering to social distancing and COVID-19 regulatory guidelines.

Due to the current worldwide health condition posture, we were unable to host a traditional ball so leadership thought outside the box to recognize those who contributed significantly, not only to the reestablishment of the brigade, but to the entire Air Defense community.

Please enjoy as [#ChaplainsNeighborhood](#) Chaplain Maj. Mark A. Johnston hosts the event, a look at the brigade then and now, a surprise guest speaker shares their message, a [#ByValorAndPower](#) Saint Barbara and Molly Pitcher Award ceremony, and a comedic closing mini feature sum up this 1st Annual Saint Barbara's Day Virtual Ball!

[#VirtualBall](#) [#CelebratingHistoryAndTheFuture](#)
[#MakingHistory](#) [#Allied2Win](#)



The early years of Combat Camera

Cpl. Kevin Sterling Payne
American Forces Network

The legacy of the Combat Cameraman has been part of the Signal Corps history for over 100 years. The select few men and women that have served in the role of Army photographers, both “still” and “motion picture,” have practiced their trade across the world, on every continent, capturing footage on every type of professional photo and video formats used throughout the last century. Their gear has ranged from massive bellows cameras capable of capturing a single image on 8”x10” film plates, to DSLRs capable of shooting thousands of high-



*Signal Corps class in Photography, Washington Barracks, Oct. 1918.
US Army Signal Corps Photo*

resolution images on a single memory card, roughly 1-inch square. But throughout the last century, their equipment and uniforms certainly were not the only things that have changed. The very role and purpose of Combat Cameramen has expanded greatly, and their skills and usefulness to the military, both on and off the battlefield, are ever increasing.

"Before World War I, the Signal Corps had given relatively little attention to photography, and few officers or enlisted men had much training in that specialized field,"

said K. Jack Bauer in 1957's *Special Lists, Number 14: List of World War 1 Signal Corps Films*.

According to Rebecca Robbins Raines in her book *Getting the Message Through: A Branch History of the US Army Signal Corps*, these Soldiers were part of a small group of troops that had been trained as photographers by the Signal Corps starting in 1894.

"By 1896 the Corps had published a *Manual of Photography* written by then 1st Lt. Samuel Reber. While



Cpt. David Gray, C.O., Photo Div., Capt. W.J. McCarthy, 101st Inf., 26th Div., Lieut. E.H. Cooper and Pvt. Gideon Eikelberry and Charles E. Painter of the Signal Corps, Photo. Unit, 26th Division. Broussy en Woevre, Meuse, France Arp. 20 1918"
US Army Signal Corps Photo

serving in Puerto Rico, Reber used his skills to draw topographical maps based on photographs.”

Signal Corps photographers documented, in small numbers, the Spanish American war in Cuba. Because of their attachment to the Signal Corps, several of the photos taken during the conflict depict Signal Corps Soldiers performing their wartime activities. However, aside from the use of photos for cartography, the military had little use for them. This changed in World War I.

“On July 21, 1917, the Signal Corps was designated the bureau responsible for obtaining photographic coverage of American participation in World War I,” Bauer said. “Photographic coverage was ordered for propaganda, scientific, identification, and military reconnaissance purposes, but the primary production of a pictorial history of the war.”

This called for a rigorous restructuring of the Signal Corps’ Photographic Section, and training of the Soldiers destined to cover the American Expeditionary Forces as the United States entered the war.



Motion picture and still photographers that documented the D-Day invasion, Normandy France, June 1944.
US Army Signal Corps Photo

“Beginning with 25 men in August 1917, the Photographic Section attached to American Expeditionary Forces reached a strength of 92 officers and 498 men in November 1918,” Raines said.

Aerial photographs of the enemy trenches, taken by hanging over the side of low and slow flying biplanes, provided reconnaissance on a scale never before seen in military history. Details such as enemy troop movements and gun emplacements could easily be seen by commanders in the field the same day they were photographed. War documentation proved useful in troop training, propaganda films, and in providing an accurate historical record of the war. Although the technology of moving pictures was still fairly new, and the cameras used were quite cumbersome by today’s standards, there is a staggering amount of footage captured by the cameramen of World War I. Some of the footage was filmed during battle, and some staged after a battle, to as closely as possible replicate what had happened, in the location it had taken place, by the Soldiers that had performed the task, somewhat like a dress rehearsal taking place after the main show.

“Following their successful use during World War I, the Army increasingly relied upon motion pictures for training purposes,” Raines said. “With the advent of sound films in the late 1920s, film production entered a new era. In 1928, the War Department assigned the Signal Corps responsibility to produce new training films but neglected to allocate any funds. To obtain needed expertise, the Signal Corps called upon the commercial film industry for assistance, and in 1930 the Signal Corps sent its first officer to Hollywood for training sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.”

As World War II erupted, men were once again called into service to partake in the Signal Corps’ vital role as

Combat Cameramen. The Combat Picture Units that took part in documenting the war did so on a scale that had never been matched in the history of video documentation. Five-man Combat Picture Units – comprised of two still cameramen, two videographers, and one officer – were sent out to cover every section of the US Army fighting forces. Their job was to document everything they saw, and to find stories wherever they could. These men served across the Pacific and Europe, capturing the now iconic footage that is well known to many, to this day.

In Europe, units were attached to all the Armies attacking the Western Front. Some of these men stormed the beaches of Normandy. Others, attached to airborne units, jumped inland to film the airborne assault. Many more came later to film the push towards Germany and the attack on the Third Reich. Most of these men saw far

more of the war than the average GI that served under one fighting unit throughout the duration. According to the *Signal Corps' Company History of the 167th Signal Photographic Company*, cameramen often followed the action across enemy lines to pursue not only the enemy, but the story while usually only armed with a Colt .45, a fighting knife, and a camera.

Prior to World War II, Americans had never seen, firsthand, daily newsreels of war. American film directors such as John Ford and Frank Capra used Signal Corps Cameramen to capture combat footage for various pro-



Tec 4th Jack Hutton of Columbus, Ohio, a Signal Corps movie cameraman, preparing to shoot a scene near the German border. St. Vith, Belgium 18 Sept. 1944.
US Army Signal Corps Photo

ductions throughout the war, showing Americans what the war truly meant to the fighting men on the front. They were an essential part in demonstrating “Why We Fight.”

When looking back on the World Wars, it is easy to forget that the Infantry, Air Corps, and Artillery were not the only ones on the front lines in the conflict. Most of us can easily conjure an image of a World War II Soldier, and have probably heard stories of what they did. These images are emblazoned in our minds, and their bravery in our hearts, thanks to the diligent work of the early Signal Corps Combat Camera Units.



Photo by 55th Signal Company

Telling the Storytellers' story

Staff Sgt. Paul Sale

Combat camera Soldiers have a rich history and important duty to capture some of the best and worst moments in human history through their lenses. Since photography was first used to document the life of Civil War Soldiers in camps to nighttime raids in the mountains of Afghanistan, combat photographers have worked perilously to preserve the history of America's fighting force,

but not of the proud history of the job itself. As scores of combat photographers' photos and videos have defined generations and remained entrenched in the minds of the world, the history of combat photographers themselves is ever fleeting and unfortunately every year forgotten more and more. This is a trend that was recently noticed by Spc. Anthony Zendejas.

As a proud combat photographer himself, Zendejas was working to develop a video to celebrate the history of combat photography when he found that finding a rec-

ord of the photographers or even their story was nearly an impossible task.

“There’s so much photo and video out there and all of that stuff was created by combat camera Soldiers that risked so much and sacrificed so much to provide the American people with compelling imagery and a lot of the times we don’t get to know who that photographer is,” he said. “I think that being a photographer makes me curious to know who it was that went before me and I am curious to know who they are.”

Realizing that every year, another generation of former combat photographers are lost to time’s constant march forward, Zendejas set out to save the history of the job he loves. Working from the Army’s only active duty combat camera unit, the 55th Signal Company, Zendejas has begun spearheading a project to create a living network of the history of the combat photography field.

“I just want to create a space where (former combat camera soldiers) can reach out and we can catalog their history, to have the storyteller’s story be told,” he said.

With the end goal of a website that catalogs combat photographers, their imagery and their stories from behind the images, Zendejas is focused on spreading the message about his project and gaining as much support from the community of combat photographers as he can.

“It is going to have to really be word of mouth, hopefully a Vietnam veteran will see this and think ‘hey! I remember my buddy from



*Spc. Anthony Zendejas
Courtesy photo*

the VFW who was a combat photographer' and so on and so on," he said. "Whether from friends or family, this network will be able to grow more and more by each former combat photographer we are able to get in touch with."

In addition to firsthand stories and contact with former combat photographers, Zendejas hopes that family members of combat photographers who have passed will come forward with stories and memories of their Soldiers in order to carry on their legacy. The website, which is currently in development, will be centrally focused on telling the stories of former combat photographers through short documentary style videos. With the theme of telling the storyteller's story, the site will also showcase imagery from the photographers with the story behind what was happening and going through their mind



*U.S. Army Spc. Rebecca Dennis, 55th Signal Company, photographs Soldiers as they arrive for the Warrior Care and Transition's Army Trials at Fort Bliss Texas, March 27, 2017.
Courtesy photo*



*Pfc. Ali Hargis, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), photographs a nighttime live fire training exercise with the 37 Canadian Brigade Group at Fort Pickett, Va., March 3, 2009.
Photo by Spc. Matthew Freire*



*A Combat camera photographer shoots a training exercise
Photo by 55th Signal Company*

when the image was taken. Zendejas hopes that future and current combat photographers will look to this site for knowledge and inspiration from those who came before them.

“That's why I want to create this space, so that we can have a dialogue, between combat cameramen of the past and combat cameramen of the future, whatever that may look like,” he said. “This could even be just for people who are interested in our imagery, it's a place where they can learn from the history of the images as well as the photographers that took them”.

When asked about who he wished could be apart of this network, Zendejas spoke of Tech. Sgt. Val C. Pope and his wish to honor his memory. Tech. Sgt. Pope was a combat videographer who stormed the beaches on D-day to document the invasion. What made him stand out from the other Soldiers charging the bunkers was when he stopped on the beach and turned his back on the intense machine gun fire to get video of the landing crafts coming ashore.

“The character of that man and the stuff he went through, turning his back to machine gun fire to film people landing, is just another level of courageous and is truly inspirational,” he said.

Tech. Sgt. Pope continued to document the bravery of the American soldiers fighting for the next few days, filming many iconic scenes from the invasion, until he was killed by a German machine gun team. Zendejas' efforts to create this network will ensure that future generations of combat photographers never forget the bravery of Pope and others like him, as well as continue their proud legacy of courage under fire.

As this project continues to grow, Zendejas is continually looking for any former combat photographers to add their story and hear what they went through during

their time in uniform. If you served as a combat photographer or know someone who did, please reach out to Zendejas so that the proud history of combat photography can be saved for future generations. He can be emailed at Anthony.zendejas.iv@gmail.com.



*Tech. Sgt. Val C. Pope
Courtesy photo*

Exploring network resiliency

Jasmyne Douglas
CCDC C5ISR Center Public Affairs

Army Futures Command (AFC) is heading out of the laboratory and “into the field” this summer to develop a blueprint for the future of network communications technologies.

The Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) Center – a component of AFC’s Combat Capabilities Development Command – is leading the Network Modernization Experiment 2020 (NetModX 20), taking place July 20 to Oct. 2, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

NetModX is an annual field-based experimentation event that informs acquisition decisions, Army science and technology (S&T) specifications, requirements and strategies. According to Joseph Saldiveri, interim project lead for NetModX 20, this type of experimentation, combined with Soldiers’ observations, can change the trajectory of a project’s development and lead to a “more robust, flexible and relevant solution when the project is ready for operational testing.”

During the experiments, Soldiers

will be on site to observe the testing and provide feedback based on their tactical experience.

“It’s important to bring technologies out of the lab and into the field environment before operational testing with Soldiers because experiments in the field often yield different results than experienced in the lab,” Saldiveri said. “Typically, the lab is a pristine environment where all vari-



Spc. Todd Callahan, a signal support systems specialist with the Mission Command Element, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kans., stands on top of a Command Post Platform vehicle to set up an antenna to allow radio communication during a command post exercise.

Photo by Spc. Christina Westover



Lt. Col. Brian Herzik, deputy fire support coordinator, assigned to Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, assists with unloading tent flooring at the Fort Carson Mission Training Complex.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Daphney Black

ables are tightly controlled. Experimenting in the field with engineers does permit control over variables, but it also exposes the technology to the randomness of real-world phenomena.”

Since 2017, NetModX has offered a fail-safe environment, giving government engineers and industry technology providers an opportunity to learn how their systems perform mission command tasks in an operationally-relevant environment.

Dr. Michael Brownfield, the C5ISR Center’s Future Capabilities chief, said this is possible because of the Center’s ability to partner with vendors early-on using Cooperative Research and Development Agreements— a legal agreement between a federal laboratory and a non-federal party to conduct specified research or development efforts – to assess their technologies in the lab prior to the field experiment.

“We have an extensive understanding of our near peer adversaries’ abilities to disrupt our communications,” said Brownfield. “We can replicate those electronic attack capabilities against vendor-developed technologies and iteratively mitigate their vulnerabilities as a team.”

NetModX 20 will focus on increasing the resiliency of the Army’s network and command posts. Lessons learned from the event will inform Capability Set 23 – a collection of network capability enhancements informed by experimentation, demonstration and direct Soldier feedback – scheduled to be fielded in 2023.

During NetModX 20, the C5ISR Center will

explore automated primary, alternate, contingency and emergency communications; low Earth orbit, medium Earth orbit and geosynchronous high-throughput satellite systems; hardened waveforms; defensive cyber abilities; protected satellite communications; and command post survivability.

The technologies align to the Network Cross-Functional Team's (CFT) efforts and network modernization priorities. Donald Coulter, the Network CFT's senior S&T advisor, said they plan to use the experiment to prototype several government and commercial technologies that will advance terrestrial and space-based communications networks and cyber resiliency and will increase the mobility and survivability of command posts in support of multi-domain operations.

"NetModX 20 provides the CFT additional data to analyze technology maturity and capability effectiveness in terms of established baseline objectives for a number of technologies," Coulter said. "This experiment is important because it provides the opportunity to demonstrate capabilities in the field as well as conduct risk reduction events that support integration across modernization priorities and joint all-domain operations."

Previous NetModX events allowed scientists and engineers to simultaneously experiment with several technologies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, a maximum of two technologies will be tested at a given time. The event will be spread out over a longer period than previous years, said Brownfield, enabling researchers to achieve all of the learning objectives established prior to the pandemic.

"Safety is a major concern," said Joshua Fischer, the C5ISR Center's Systems Engineering, Architecture, Modeling and Simulation chief. "We're making sure the staff at the site are following proper COVID prevention

practices and are utilizing the proper personal protective equipment to conduct experimentation safely."

Army senior leaders and industry partners interested in receiving reports generated by the experiment or interested in participating in events related to NetModX 20, can do so by contacting the C5ISR Center's Future Capabilities Office at usarmy.apg.ccdc-c5isr.mbx.stcd-ost-fco@mail.mil.



Pfc. Cassie Cowell and Sgt. Zachary Teisher, human resource specialists with the 213th Personnel Company, 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 213th Regional Support Group, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, assemble a very small aperture terminal communications satellite at Fort Indiantown Gap, June 8, 2017.

Photo by Cpt. Gregory McElwain

A Victory Message from the Chief Signal Officer – August 1945

Steven J. Rauch
Signal Corps Branch Historian

August 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II when on August 14, 1945 the Japanese Empire had agreed to Allied demands to cease further useless fighting and coordinate for a final surrender. The US received a message from the Japanese government through Swiss diplomats that indicated an agreement to surrender and be subject to orders of the Allied Supreme Commander, General Douglas MacArthur. At 9 am Manila Time on August 15, 1945, the Signal officer in charge of the teletype room read a stunning in the clear message for MacArthur from the War Department that stated, "YOU ARE HEREBY OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED OF JAPANESE CAPITULATION. YOUR DIRECTIVE AS SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS IS EFFECTIVE."

Understanding the urgency

to stop further bloodshed, signalers throughout the Pacific theater and in Washington DC made extraordinary efforts to establish communications with Japan on any frequency - meteorological, financial, military, or civilian - to get MacArthur's message through. The office of the Chief Signal Officer in Washington relayed the message to commercial radio companies as well as neutral foreign capitals to contact any Japanese station to establish the important line of communication. The Signalers in Manila soon had messages pour into the Signal Center as stations everywhere had been listening in on one of the greatest radio dramas in history. With a circuit established between MacArthur's HQ in Manila and Japan, important messages were sent with specific and careful coordination to ensure all armies fighting in the Far East were aware that Japan desired to cease fighting. On August 16, the Japanese government sent word, "HIS MAJESTY

IN THE CLEAR
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
OUTGOING MESSAGE

GC-E SJC/rwa
15 AUGUST 1945

FROM: SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

TO : THE JAPANESE EMPIRE
THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT
THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

O) OIPL PRIORITY
}

INFO: WARGOS OIPL PRIORITY
CINCPAC OIPL PRIORITY

ITEM HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS AREN THE UNITED STATES CMA THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA CMA THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AREN AND EMPowered TO ARRANGE DIRECTLY WITH THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES FOR THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE ID

() IT IS DESIRED THAT ABLE RADIO STATION IN THE TOKYO AREA BE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED FOR CONTINUOUS USE IN HANDLING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THIS HEADQUARTERS AND YOUR HEADQUARTERS ID YOUR REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE SHOULD GIVE THE CALL SIGNS CMA FREQUENCIES AND STATION DESIGNATION ID IT IS DESIRED THAT THE RADIO COMMUNICATION WITH MY HEADQUARTERS IN MANILA BE HANDLED IN ENGLISH TEXT ID PENDING DESIGNATION BY YOU OF ABLE STATION IN THE TOKYO AREA FOR USE AS ABOVE INDICATED CMA STATION JIG MAN ROGER ON FREQUENCY ONE-SEVEN TWO FIVE KILOCYCLES WILL BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE ID UPON RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE CMA ACKNOWLEDGE

MACARTHUR

OFFICIAL: *[Signature]*
S. J. CHAMBERLIN,
Major General, G.S.C.,
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-3.

COPIES TO:
STAFF GHQ
G-3 (RETURN)

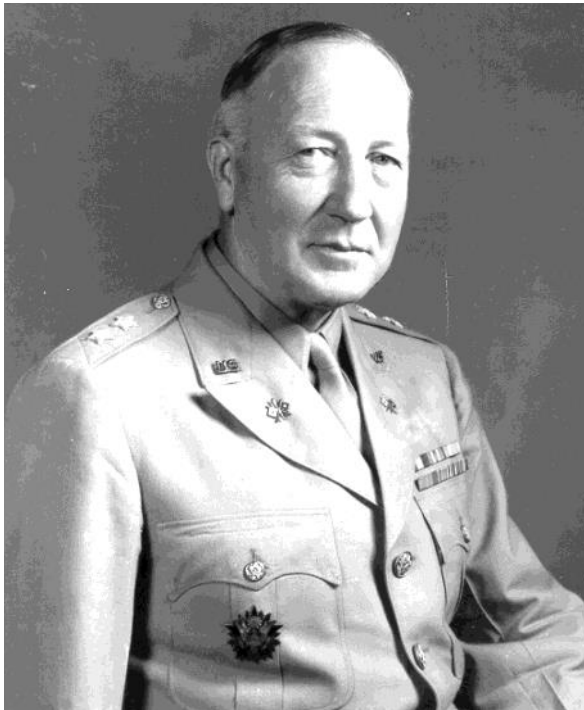
IN THE CLEAR

The original message, signed by MacArthur on August 15, 1945, that signal soldiers frantically sent using any means possible to the Japanese Emperor to cease hostilities and arraign for official communications between the powers. Photo provided by Signal Corps Historical Collection, Fort Gordon, Ga.

THE EMPEROR ISSUED AN IMPERIAL ORDER AT 1600 O'CLOCK ON AUGUST 16TH TO THE ENTIRE ARMED FORCES TO CEASE HOSTILITIES IMMEDIATELY." The message that ended World War II had gotten through because of US Army Signal Corps personnel and equipment.

In the *Signal Corps Technical Information Letter* published later that month, the Chief Signal Officer – Maj. Gen. Harry C. Ingles – published a victory message to members of the Signal Corps, part of which is excerpted below:

"Now that our great war for freedom has come to an end it is my desire to express my thanks to the officers and men and women, both military and civilian, of the



Maj. Gen. Harry C. Ingles, Chief Signal Officer from 1943 to 1947

Photo provided by Signal Corps Historical Collection, Fort Gordon, Ga.

Signal Corps for the great job they have done during the nearly four years that our country has been at war. I wish that it were physically possible for me to thank each one individually, but instead I must rely on a few words in this publication to convey my admiration and appreciation for the work you have done in the trying days since December 7, 1941.

I have not forgotten that for most of

you your contribution toward Victory was made in the face of a great change – a change that called for an abrupt alteration in your mode of living and tore you from your homes, your offices, your factories and your farms to thrust you into new and unaccustomed jobs, often in strange and distant lands. Despite this, you came through with American fortitude and adaptability to aid in the conquest of enemy armies that had been preparing for their task of attempted world domination for many years.

In a letter written after VJ-day thanking the Signal Corps for its contribution to the war effort, the Honorable Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, had the following to say:

But for the great strides made in Signal Corps equipment, particularly in radar, the war would certainly not be concluded at this early date.

I have some knowledge of the difficult problems you and your staff have solved. I am acquainted, as I wish the whole country were better acquainted, with the magnitude of your achievement.

Please allow me at this time to say thank-you for your magnificent contribution to the victory of our Nation and our Allies.

It is my belief that my thanks extend beyond me and that I can voice the gratitude of the Army and of the American people for the way you have functioned to supply equipment and "get the message through" from that infamous Sunday at Pearl Harbor to the moment that word was flashed that peace had again come to the world. Consequently, I feel that in speaking for myself I have only put into words the feeling of the millions of American in and out of uniform who recognized the Signal Corps as the nerve system of our great military force."

In the next



ARMY



COMMUNICATOR

**Communication
in a Virtual world**

